

Juvenile Fire Setter Program

No Bad Children



Just Bad Choices



Juvenile Fire Setter Program

1. Introduction

- A. Handout
 - 1. Disclosure and Agreement Form
 - 2. Juvenile Fire Setter Incident Report Form
 - 3. Watching, Utah (incident)

2. Purpose of Tracking System

- A. Track juveniles who are setting fires
- B. Track ignition source, dollar loss, age, sex, and etc. of juvenile fire setters
- C. Juvenile fire setter history from community to community
- D. Intervention services to stop fire setting activity

3. State Fire Marshal's Office Role in JFS

- A. Central collection agency for data collected by fire service in the field
- B. Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA)
 - 1. Arson fire - juvenile record is classified as "PROTECTED"
 - a. Restricted access to record as identified in Paragraph A of *Disclosure and Agreement* form
 - 2. Accidental fire - name of juvenile is classified as "PRIVATE"
 - a. Record is public information
 - b. Restricted access to the name of juvenile, as identified in Paragraph B of *Disclosure and Agreement* form
 - 3. Disclosure and Agreement Form
 - a. Must be on file with SFMO
 - b. Must be signed by fire department chief

4. Types of Information Tracked

- A. All elements on form
- B. Interest in ignition source, sex, age of juvenile fire setters
- C. Review of form, line by line (ask questions as we go through)

5. Submitting Reports to the State Fire Marshal's Office

- A. Submit by the 10th of the month following interview to:

JFS - Dave Vickers
State Fire Marshal's Office
5272 South College Drive #302
Murray, Utah 84123-2611
Office - (801) 284-6350
Direct - (801) 284-6367



Juvenile Fire Setter Program

Watching, Utah

On Thursday, January 8, 1998 at 1300 hours a fire was reported burning in a playhouse outside the residence of Marsha Kingston. Ms. Kingston's residence is located at 354 West 1450 North in Watching, Utah. The Watching Fire Department, FDID # 77477, responded and extinguished the fire.

The fire caused an estimated \$1,500 to the playhouse and to the south side of the residence. The home is owned by Tim Backworth and rented by Ms. Kingston.

Ms. Kingstons's six year old son, Joseph Daniel, was playing with friends in the playhouse. Sue Johnson, Ms. Kingston's neighbor, had driven by and saw smoke coming from the playhouse and alerted Ms. Kingston. All the boys were found in the bushes in the front yard. There was Tim who was 6, Shane who was 7, and Mike who was 6. Investigation into the fire revealed that papers had been set on fire in the north corner of the playhouse with a lighter that was found outside the door.

Marsha Kingston is a divorced, single mom who is living with her boyfriend, Tom. Both Tom and Marsha smoke.

This was not the first time the fire department had been to the Kingston home. Last year a grass fire was started by Joey in the back yard. He had come down to the fire station and talked with the Fire Marshal and was given a tour of the station.

Joey has a younger brother and sister who are 4 and 2. Joey is not on medication but has had one previous fire. His mom and dad split up a year ago, just before the grass fire. Tom has lived with them for about 10 months.



UTAH JUVENILE FIRE SETTER INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM

Fire Department _____ FDID# _____ Date _____

Referred by: *FD, Parent, School, Other, specify* _____

Form Completed by _____ Date Referred to you _____

Incident # _____ Fire# _____ Police# _____ JFS# _____

Date of Incident _____ Day of Week _____ Time of Day _____

Address of Incident _____

Type of Location: *Own Residence, Own Yard, Other Residence, Other Yard, School, Church, Shed (Barn), Field (Wildland), Other Building, specify* _____ *Other, specify* _____

Type of situation found: *Structure, Outside of Structure, Vehicle, Trees, Brush, Grass, Trash, Rubbish*
Other specify: _____ The home is: *Rented / Owned* Area of fire origin: _____

! If incident occurred at home, were the parents home? *Yes / No* ! Was the child home alone? *Yes / No*

! Was another child involved? *Yes / No* ! If yes, who _____

Ignition Source: *Match, Lighter, Stove, Fireplace, other specify* _____

Injuries: _____ # of civilians _____ # of firefighters Deaths: _____ # of civilians _____ # of firefighters

Dollar Loss: Structure _____ Contents _____ Outside _____ Other _____

! Was there a smoke detector present? *Yes / No / Don't know / Not applicable*

! If yes, did it operate and notify occupants? *Yes / No / Don't know*

Juvenile Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M.I. _____ SSN # _____

Sex: *Male / Female* Date of Birth ____/____/____ Age: _____ Birth order of child: _____

of siblings: _____ Race: *White, Black, American Indian, Hispanic, Asian, Other, specify* _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ County _____ Apartment # _____ Phone: () _____

! Whom does child live with? *Both Parents, Mother only, Father only, Other, specify* _____

Female Guardian: Last Name: _____ First: _____ Phone #: _____

Smoke: *Yes / No* Employed: *Yes / No* Work Phone#: _____

Male Guardian: Last Name: _____ First: _____ Phone #: _____

Smoke: *Yes / No* Employed: *Yes / No* Work Phone#: _____

! Did you evaluate the child? *Yes / No* ! If yes, did you assign the risk level to the child? *Yes / No*

! If yes, what was the risk score? *Not assigned, Little concern, Some concern, Definite concern, Extreme concern*

! Outcome of the evaluation? ! Education *Yes / No*, ! Education in conjunction with interview *Yes / No*

! Video *Yes / No*, ! Other, *specify* _____

! Did you refer the child to another agency? *Yes / No* ! If Yes, What agency _____

! Date referred: ____/____/____ ! Counseling Date: ____/____/____ ! Follow-up Date: ____/____/____

! Has child been in program before? *Yes / No / Don't Know* ! Is the child on medication? *Yes / No / Don't Know*

! Type of medication: _____

! Is child hyperactive? *Yes / No / Don't Know* ! Any recent changes in family structure? *Yes / No / Don't Know*

! Has child been under stress in the past 6 months? *Yes / No / Don't Know*. ! Does child have physical ailment?

Yes / No / Don't Know. ! Was the fire set when the child was with a group? *Yes / No / Don't Know*. ! Was this

fire *his / her* first fire? *Yes / No / Don't Know* ! If no, Number of previous fires _____

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JUVENILE FIRE SETTER PROGRAM



Child Set Fires

During a typical year, 600 people are killed and two hundred million dollars in property is destroyed nationwide due to fires set by children. The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that these figures represent only 10% of the actual fires caused by juveniles. Fire Service agencies in Utah continue to see an alarming increase in deaths, injuries and property loss that can be directly attributed to fireplay by children.

Federal Grant Awarded

In 1991, the Salt Lake area was awarded a one year federal grant to develop and implement an education and intervention program to address this need. The Juvenile Fire Setter Program (JFSP) has implemented an education and intervention program that provides a consistent, comprehensive approach to the juvenile fire setter problem. Data collection has been coordinated through the State Fire Marshal's Office. The data assists in determining the fireplay history and appropriate intervention for juvenile fire setters.

Critical Issue

As many jurisdictions, mental health, medical facilities and local juvenile court systems became increasingly aware of the juvenile fire setter problem, the need for the JFSP became obvious. In order to more effectively address this critical issue the following objectives were identified:

- ➡ To train fire department personnel in the accurate assessment of juvenile fire setters, eg: curiosity versus pathological
- ➡ To develop "in house" programs in each fire department for treatment and education of "curiosity" referrals
- ➡ To develop consistent mental health community responses for dealing with "problem" fire starters
- ➡ To develop record keeping and data systems to coordinate an accurate and consistent flow of information between fire departments
- ➡ To develop a public awareness program by utilizing the news media and developing a brochure identifying the juvenile fire setter problem as it exists in the community.

JFS Program Training

Training sessions have been conducted for various fire service providers within the state. Training includes identification and intervention techniques necessary to combat the problem of juvenile fire setting. A training manual was developed listing local resources to assist in implementing in-house juvenile fire setter programs. This manual includes evaluation and profiling materials to aid local fire departments in the assessment of juvenile fire setters. A four segment video tape for use as an education and intervention tool was developed as well.

***16 departments have reported 708 juvenile fire setters**

***596 of those are male (84.2%)**

***68 of those are female (9.6%)**

***44 of those, the gender was not reported (6.2%)**

***\$ 1,203,422 dollars have been lost**

